

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 762

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on the inclusion of the Miami Circle in Biscayne National Park.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 1999

Mr. GRAHAM introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on the inclusion of the Miami Circle in Biscayne National Park.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Tequesta Indians were one of the ear-
6 liest groups to establish permanent villages in south-
7 east Florida;

8 (2) the Tequestas had one of only two North
9 American civilizations that thrived and developed

1 into a complex social chiefdom without an agricul-
 2 tural base;

3 (3) the Tequesta sites that remain preserved
 4 today are rare;

5 (4) the discovery of the Miami Circle, occupied
 6 by the Tequesta approximately 2,000 years ago, pre-
 7 sents a valuable new opportunity to learn more
 8 about the Tequesta culture;

9 (5) Biscayne National Park in Homestead,
 10 Florida, contains and protects several prehistoric
 11 Tequesta sites; and

12 (6) as a valuable archaeological resource and
 13 the only Tequesta site of its kind known to exist in
 14 Florida, the Miami Circle should be preserved and
 15 protected as part of the Park.

16 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to direct
 17 the Secretary to determine the feasibility of including the
 18 Miami Circle in the Biscayne National Park.

19 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) MIAMI CIRCLE.—The term “Miami Circle”
 22 means the property in Miami-Dade County of the
 23 State of Florida consisting of the three parcels de-
 24 scribed in Exhibit A in the appendix to the summons
 25 to show cause and notice of eminent domain pro-

1 ceedings, filed February 18, 1999, in Miami-Dade
2 County v. Brickell Point, Ltd., in the circuit court
3 of the 11th judicial circuit of Florida in and for
4 Miami-Dade County.

5 (2) PARK.—The term “Park” means Biscayne
6 National Park in the southern part of the State of
7 Florida.

8 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
10 rector of the National Park Service.

11 **SEC. 3. FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year and 180
13 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of includ-
15 ing the Miami Circle in the Park.

16 (b) COMPONENTS.—The study shall include the anal-
17 ysis and recommendations of the Secretary with respect
18 to—

19 (1) which, if any, particular areas of or sur-
20 rounding the Miami Circle should be included in the
21 Park;

22 (2) whether any additional staff, facilities, or
23 other resources would be necessary to administer the
24 Miami Circle as a unit of the Park; and

1 (3) any impact on the local area that would re-
2 sult from the inclusion of Miami Circle in the Park.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after comple-
4 tion of the feasibility study, the Secretary shall submit a
5 report describing the findings and recommendations of the
6 study to—

7 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
8 sources of the Senate; and

9 (2) the Committee on Resources of the House
10 of Representatives.

11 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
13 essary to carry out this Act.

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